

## Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT:AFRICA EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY VANCE'S BRIEFING OF  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS, APRIL 10, 1978  
1. RHODESIA

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSURANCES FROM ANY OF THE PARTIES  
INVOLVED.. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OR  
THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS..THAT THEY ARE ALL WILLING  
TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND WORK OUT POLITICAL AND  
MILITARY SETTLEMENTS?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH ASSURANCES. THE ISSUES  
INVOLVED IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION ARE OF TREMENDOUS  
IMPORTANCE TO THE PEACE OF THAT AREA AND TO THE WELL  
BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA. IT IS OUR JUDGMENT  
THAT IN ORDER FOR A CEASE-FIRE.. A LASTING CEASE-FIRE  
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AND A LASTING PEACE AND SETTLEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED IT  
WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING ALL OF THE PARTIES TOGETHER.  
IF THAT IS NOT ACHIEVED THEN I THINK THAT THE  
LIKELIHOOD OF CIVIL WAR IS GREAT. AND, THEREFORE WE  
AND THE BRITISH AND OTHERS BELIEVE VERY DEEPLY THAT  
WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO WORK WITH THE  
NATIONALIST LEADERS AND OTHERS INVOLVED TO

SEE IF WE CAN'T HELP BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ANGL0-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE A FAIR BASIS-AND SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR A SOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO SIT DOWN WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT COMMON GROUND CAN BE FOUND SO AS TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION THAT ALL CAN ACCEPT AND THUS PREVENT CONTINUING BLOODSHED IN THE FUTURE.

2. SOVIETS IN AFRICA.

Q. WHAT WILL YOU TELL THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE LIKELY AFFECT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND OTHER PLACES ON (SALT)?

A. AS I HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BEFORE, THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATION OF A SALT AGREEMENT AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION IN AFRICA. THE REASON FOR THAT IS THAT I THINK THE NEGOTIATION OF A SALT AGREEMENT IS CENTRAL TO THE SECURITY OF BOTH OUR NATIONS AND TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD AND IT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED ON ITS OWN TWO FEET, AND WE WILL DO THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBAN AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. AND I WOULD ASSUME THAT THAT WILL BE ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT WILL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BE DISCUSSING NOT ONLY SALT BUT A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS. VANCE

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